

# Discord Error 2001 (Stream Start Failure) - Here's What Actually Fixes It

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Error 2001 shows up when Discord can't initialize your stream. The full label is "Stream Start Failure (2001)" and it's almost always caused by one of four things: hardware acceleration conflicts, a corrupted cache, an outdated GPU driver, or something on your network blocking the connection. The good news is it's almost always fixable without reinstalling.

Work through these in order - most people are done by step 3.

### 1. Retry the Stream

Sounds too simple, but it works more often than it should. Click Go Live again immediately after the error. Discord sometimes chokes on the first handshake and succeeds on the second try without any changes on your end.

### 2. Toggle Hardware Acceleration

This is the most common fix. Discord's hardware acceleration offloads video encoding to your GPU - but if your drivers are mismatched or your GPU is older, this causes stream initialization to fail silently and spit out the 2001 error.

1. Open Discord -> click the gear icon (User Settings) at the bottom left.
2. Go to Advanced in the left sidebar.
3. Toggle Hardware Acceleration off (if it's on) or on (if it's off).
4. Discord will ask you to restart - do it, then try streaming again.

Quote: Note: If you're not sure which setting works for your system, try both. Some machines actually need it enabled to stream properly.

### 3. Disable the OpenH264 Video Codec

Discord uses Cisco's OpenH264 codec for video encoding by default. When your GPU can't handle it cleanly, Error 2001 is the result. Turning it off makes Discord fall back to a more compatible method.

1. Go to User Settings -> Voice & Video .
2. Scroll down to the Video Codec section.
3. Disable OpenH264 Video Codec provided by Cisco Systems, Inc.
4. Restart Discord and test the stream.

### 4. Clear Discord's Cache

Corrupted cache files - especially the GPU cache - can block Discord from starting a stream at all. Deleting them forces Discord to start fresh. You won't lose your settings, servers, or messages.

Windows:

1. Fully close Discord. Open Task Manager ( 'Ctrl + Shift + Esc' ) to confirm no Discord processes are running.
2. Press 'Win + R' , type '%appdata%\discord' , and hit Enter.
3. Delete these three folders: 'Cache' , 'Code Cache' , and 'GPUCache' .
4. Relaunch Discord.

Mac:

1. Quit Discord completely ( 'Cmd + Q' ).
2. Open Finder -> Go -> Go to Folder.
3. Type '~/Library/Application Support/discord/' and press Enter.
4. Delete the 'Cache' , 'Code Cache' , and 'GPUCache' folders.
5. Reopen Discord.

## 5. Update Your GPU Drivers

Outdated graphics drivers are a less obvious but very real cause - especially if you've recently updated Windows or Discord and the stream feature suddenly broke. Download the latest driver directly from your GPU manufacturer:

- NVIDIA: [nvidia.com/Download](https://www.nvidia.com/Download)
  - AMD: [amd.com/support](https://www.amd.com/support)
  - Intel (integrated graphics): Use Windows Update or Intel's Driver & Support Assistant
- Restart after installing and try the stream again.

## 6. Disable IPv6 (Windows)

This one's more obscure but confirmed to fix Error 2001 for some users - particularly those on routers that handle IPv4 and IPv6 differently. Turning off IPv6 forces Discord's streaming traffic through IPv4 only, which tends to be more stable.

1. Press 'Win + R' , type 'ncpa.cpl' , and hit Enter.
2. Right-click your active network adapter -> Properties .
3. Uncheck Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6) .
4. Click OK and restart your PC.

## 7. Disable Your VPN

If you're running a VPN, disconnect it before trying to stream. VPNs can create routing conflicts that prevent Discord from establishing the stream connection within its timeout window - which triggers Error 2001. Test without it first, and if that fixes it, you may need to add Discord to your VPN's split-tunnel list rather than disabling the VPN entirely.

## 8. Try Discord PTB (Public Test Beta)

If nothing above has worked, the issue might be specific to the stable build of Discord. The PTB version runs on a separate update channel and occasionally has fixes that haven't made it to the main release yet. Download it from [ptb.discord.com](https://ptb.discord.com) - it installs separately, so you won't affect your regular Discord install.

## Official sources and references

1. [nvidia.com - Download / index.aspx](https://www.nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx) - <https://www.nvidia.com/Download/index.aspx>
2. [amd.com - en / support](https://www.amd.com/en/support) - <https://www.amd.com/en/support>

3. [ptb.discord.com](https://ptb.discord.com) - <https://ptb.discord.com>